

2. The Court shall issue a new Case Management Order extending all deadlines by sixty days.

Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Middle District of Pennsylvania

Management Order (Dkt. 59), pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 6(b) and 16(b)(4).

I. **BACKGROUND**

Following the filing of the Complaint in this action, on or about September 27, 2016, this case was transferred from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania to this judicial district. (Dkts. 18-19.) On October 28, 2016, Plaintiffs filed an Amended Complaint against Defendants bringing claims based on: the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3602, *et seq.* (“FHA”) (Count I); negligence (Count III); wrongful death (Count V); survival act (Count VI); negligent misrepresentation (Count VII); intentional misrepresentation (Count VIII); intentional infliction of emotional distress (Count IX); negligent infliction of emotional distress (Count X); civil conspiracy (Count XI); breach of fiduciary duty (Count XII); and negligence *per se* (Count XIII).¹ (Dkt. 29.) On November 14, 2016, Defendants moved to dismiss some counts of the Amended Complaint for failure to state a claim under Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. (Dkts. 31-32.) On August 10, 2017, the Court granted Defendants’ partial motion to dismiss. (Dkts. 63-64.)

¹ Counts II, and IV from the original Complaint were omitted from the Amended Complaint. *See* (Dkt. 1.)

The parties have diligently conducted written and oral discovery in this action. Defendants have produced approximately 2,200 pages of documents, and Plaintiffs have likewise produced approximately 600 pages of materials. Supplemental written discovery is ongoing.

The parties have also conducted over sixteen oral or videotaped depositions. Plaintiffs and Defendants, in good faith, continue to schedule additional depositions, including various third-party mental health providers, and an incarcerated witness, Plaintiffs' son Joshua Bartels.

II. ARGUMENT

Pursuant to Rule 16(b)(4), a pretrial scheduling order “may be modified only for good cause and with the judge’s consent.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4). Rule 16(b)’s “good cause” standard “focuses on the moving party’s burden to show due diligence.” *Race Tires Am., Inc. v. Hoosier Racing Tire Corp.*, 614 F.3d 57, 84 (3d Cir. 2010). Here, for the following reasons, the parties have demonstrated due diligence, and the deadlines set forth in the Court’s Case Management Order (Dkt. 59), should be extended by sixty days.

First, Defendants’ motion to dismiss was recently decided by the Court on August 10, 2017 (Dkt. 62-63), and Defendants have not had to file an Answer to the Amended Complaint with potential Affirmative Defenses. (Dkts. 31-32.) Prior to the September 8, 2017 discovery deadline, at the appropriate time the parties

should be permitted to conduct discovery concerning the Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and any responses thereto.

Second, Plaintiffs filed a complex action advancing multiple theories of liability based upon, *inter alia*, the FHA, and negligence based actions. According to the Amended Complaint, Defendants discriminated against Abrielle Bartels based upon a purported mental health disability. In order to adequately investigate Plaintiffs' claims and Defendants' defenses, the parties intend to conduct additional depositions as outlined in their Joint Case Management Plan and Initial Disclosures. (Dkt. 35.) The parties intend to depose additional third-parties, such as medical and mental health professionals, records custodians, as well as other third-party fact witnesses. The parties are amicably working to schedule these important discovery depositions.

Third, in light of the causes of action asserted by Plaintiffs and the allegations of mental health disabilities, Plaintiffs and Defendants have subpoenaed third-party medical providers who have provided medical and mental health treatment to Abrielle Bartels. Some of those providers, however, have failed to comply with the subpoenas and have not produced documents. Typically, third-party medical providers refuse to comply with subpoenas for these types of records without a Court order (based on the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, and similar state laws, like the Pennsylvania

Mental Health Procedures Act), and Defendants may need to request the Court's intervention to promptly secure these highly relevant documents. The parties are actively meeting and conferring with third-party mental health providers in order to obtain these highly relevant and discoverable medical materials.

Fourth, undersigned counsel are the same counsel in *Dobson v. Milton Hershey School, et al.*, 1:16-CV-1958-CCC (M.D. Pa.), which is also assigned to this Court. The *Dobson* matter involves complex theories of liability and causes of action. The parties are coordinating discovery in that complex litigation as well.

Fifth, the parties are filing this Motion jointly, and the discovery deadline has not expired. Thus, the parties respectfully request that all Case Management Order deadlines be extended for sixty days.

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, and for good cause shown, the parties jointly request that the Court enter an Order extending all case management deadlines as outlined above.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 16, 2017

CERTIFICATION OF CONCURRENCE

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 7.1, as this Motion is filed jointly, all counsel concur with the Motion.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kyle M. Elliott, Esquire, hereby certify that I caused the foregoing Joint Motion to Extend the Court's Case Management Order to be filed electronically with the Court, where it is available for viewing and downloading from the Court's ECF system, and that such electronic filing automatically generates a Notice of Electronic Filing constituting service of the filed document upon all counsel of record, including:

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